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The Gift of Hen. Schenck 1688
A Treatise of New
ENGLAND

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New England is a Countrey in *America*, Scituated within the Degrees of fortie, and fortie nine of Northerly Latitude, bordering Southward upon *Maryland* and *Virginia*, Northward upon *Nova Francia*, Northeastward upon *Nova Scotia*, and Southward upon the great Ocean, first called by the Spaniards, *Mare del Nort* (or the North Sea) not for its height so far Northerly, but in opposition of the Sea which is on the other side of that Continent, called the South sea. The Sea coast thereof, from its Southernmost to *Cape Codd*, bearing West southwest, and East Northeast; and from *Cape Codd* to *Cape Croix*, being in fortie five Degrees odd minuts, and the utmost bounds of *New-England* Northward, lying Southwest and Northeast. This Country, together with *Nova Scotia*, was formerly called *Norombega*, which hath bin this many yeares discovered and possessed by the English, in right of the Crowne of *England*. This Land in the Superficies (the store of Wood excepted) may be compared to this Kingdome. As for *De-la-ware Bay* to *Cape Codd*, being an indifferent low Land, is like to the shires of *Essex*, *Suffolke*, *Norfolke*, *Cambridge*, *Huntingdon*, *Lincolne*; and from *Cape Codd* Eastward, more hilly, resembling *Hampshire*, *Dorchester*, *Devon* and *Cornwall*. As these two parts of the Country differ in forme, so they do in fertility; for that to the Westward of *Cape Codd*, exceedeth the other to
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the Eastward, as much in rich Soile as in leuell; and withall, hath more large Marshes upon the Sea coast, now subject to the inundation of high-tides, howbeit, divers of them might be gained from the water (if ever the Planters should undertake it) with far lesse charge, than to make Tillable the like quantity of wood land, by reason the in-lets are but narrow, and bounded with ascending grounds.

2. The inner part of the Countrey consisteth most of *Vpland*, full of Woods, yet is so well furnished with fertile low Plaines and Vallies, that in crossing the Woods, one shall hardly misse in three or foure myles of such places, whereof some are very spacious and delightfull, with cleere fresh Rivers or Brooks gliding through them; without Fenne or Bogge, and scarce a shrub or bush to hinder a Ploughs going; and commonly flanked or surrounded with woody Hills, whence a man may behold as pleasant prospects (building, Tillage and Cattell excepted) as any in all *England*; wherein Planters may have choice enough of rich Earable land for many Generations. Those Vallies and Marshes upon the Sea Coast, beare Grasse of a great length and thicknes, in some places so ranke, that it is above an Ell in height; which, though it be not at the first cutting so fine as our English Grasse, yet is such good Winter Fodder as that Cattell thrive well therewith, and the ofner it is mowed, the finer it groweth. The *Vpland* also in most places is sufficient good land, producing Grasse very thick, sweet and timely, especially where the Indians have cleared any quantity of ground to plant their Corne in, and afterwards quitted it for new choise. The soile in generall is of diverse sorts. The Vallies and Marshes are for the most part a fat black Mould, saving in some places a kind of a loamie Clay, whereof the Planters make Bricks, Tiles, and earthen Vessells. The *Vpland* is either a Gravell Sandy, or somewhat stronger inclining to a Clay ground, each being very beneficiall to the labours of a painfull Husbandman.

3. That Country is stored with as great and good choice of all sorts of timber, as any one land in the knowne world; there being three kinds of Oake, each excelling the other for particular uses, with plenty of all kindes of trees that *England* affords; besides many other kinds of Wood very usefull for this Kingdom, which it selfe yeeldeth not; as Spruce, Firre, and Deale of extraordinary growth, for Masts, Yards and Plankes; out of which

Wood

Wood may bee extracted, Pitch, Tarre, Rozin and Turpentine. Likewise, Pine trees, Cedar, Cipres, Saffaphras, with the Sumack, which is very good for Dyers and Tanners; out of this Sumack and Shee-Cedar issueth sweet Gums, much used for perfumes. All those that work in Wood, do find those trees for goodnetle very answerable to their desires. There be severall kinds of trees that beare fruit, as Wallnut Chestnut, Haselnut trees and divers sorts of Plumbe trees; with infinite store of Vines that beare Grapes in great clusters, and as big many of them, as Musket bullets; which some of the Inhabitants, both English and Dutch, have transplanted, who are of opinion, by what they have already tried, that with dressing and pruning of them, they will be able to make as good Wines as any part of *France*. All the Woods over, there be Chestnuts, Wallnuts Haselnuts, Currance, Mulberries, Rasberries, Gooseberries, Hurtleberries, Hawes, with many other kindes of fruit and roots which are excellent food for Hogges, and causeth them to increase wonderfull in growth and profit.

4. That Earth fructifieth exceedingly all kinds of English and Indian Corne, and the Planters doe find by experience, that it beareth as great crops, and more increase than in any part of this Kingdom: Yet there be divers experienced Farmers which doe neglect our English Beanes and Pease, and sow those of the *Indians*, preferring them before the other, for goodnes of tast and profit. But the product of *Indian* Wheat, which is a good food, surpasseth all other graine; for 100. and 50. and 200. is ordinarily the increase thereof: And there be some of good credit now in this Kingdome who have affirmed, that they had above 300. fold. The worth of that Land is manifestly confirmed, in that it is an usuall course with those Farmers (upon the first cutting up of their ground) to sow either Hempe or *Indian* Wheate to correct the raucknesse of it, as being too strong for any other graine: there bee also Hempe and Flax that groweth naturally somewhat shorter and slenderer then ours in *England*, but much finer and stronger, whereof the *Indians* make Cords and Nets, which may prove in time a great staple commodity for Cordadge Canvas, and other sorts of finer linnen. Likewise that Country affordeth naturally diversity of medecinable Roots, Herbs, and Flowers, some of them being very beautifull and fragrant, with other kinds wholsome and good for sawce and sallads, and abundance

dance of Strawberries throughout the fields, larger and as good as any Garden Strawberries in *England*. For all kinds of Garden Roots and Herbs that are planted or sowed they prosper marvellous well, and are very usefull for the Plantors. Moreover the ground is so rich, and the climate so seasonable, that it would afford as good Woad, Madder, Rape and Safron, as in any land where they are now growing.

5. There may be had all Materials for Buildings, whether Forts, Castles, Churches, Houses, or any other Structures, as Free-stone, Smooth stone, and Marble slats for covering, Limestone for mortar and plaistering, with choise Timber, and all other appurtenances fit for finishing.

Some affirme, that there be divers sorts of Mines, but little that I know of, hath bin as yet found, excepting Black-lead and Iron-stone of severall kinds, which may in time move the industrious Planters to set up Iron works, having Wood and all other necessities fit to maintaine them for many succeeding ages; and may prove a speciall meanes to preserve the Woods here in *England*. Good salt hath bin there found, candied by the Sun upon the sides of the Rocks, where high spring Tides hath left any quantity of salt water, insomuch, that it is assuredly knowne, there might be made as good salt in many places to the Southward of *Cape Codd*, as in any part of *France*. Likewise for Potashes, there is no Land where more may be made, nor at lesse charge, for the Planters might therewith supply this Kingdome yearly with more then can be used, out of the superfluous Woods they have about their Plantations.

6. There are also many faire Lakes (which are the heads of all or most of the principall Rivers of the Country) stored with good choice of dainty fresh Fish, where the Salvages take their Beavers Otters, and other Furies; but the Planters have not yet discovered in all that continent neere *Virginia* and *New England*, any worthy of particular mention but three. The one is the Lake *St. Lewis*, in the West end of *New England*, which is 60. leagues in length, and 30. Leagues broad, but extendeth it selfe so farre westerly, that I could not insert it in this Mapp. Another Lake there is sixteen leagues to the westward of this, quite out of the bounds of *New England*, not exprest here at all, named by the *French La Merdulce*, in English the fresh Sea. This Lake is 160. leagues long, and 60. in bredth, two great fluxes of water are found

to ge out of this large Cisterne; the greater falleth off at the West part of it, and runneth Westerly within the space of fifteen leagues into a Bay of salt water, which must needs bee an Arme of the South Sea. The other Eastward & looseth it selfe into Lake St. Lewis. The third is the Lake of *Hierocoyis*, lying in the body of *New-England*, the length thereof being 40 Leagues and the bredth 80. miles. As the Lakes of that Country are vast and numerous, so they produce many goodly Rivers, some of them far bigger then any in this our *Brittaine*, of which *Canada* is the greatest, issuing out of that great Lake St. Lewis: And taking its course all along the North part of *New England*, divideth it from *Nova Francia*, and disburtheneth it selfe in the great Bay Northeastward of *Nova Scotia*. The second is *Mauritius River*, so called by the Dutch, but by the English, *Hudsons River*, who first discovered it: This River hath divers branches, the chiefe of which, commeth out of the Lake *Hieroguoysis*, as the Indians and Dutch among themselves report, but describe it not so [as it is supposed] lest the English should find out by that meanes a way to the Lake, and so participate of their great Beaver trade; it floweth forty leagues into the land, and is Navigable divers leagues higher, running all within *New England*, and is received into *Sandt* or *Manahatas Bay*, a league and a halfe from the prime Plantation of the Dutch, in the latitude off forty degrees, and thirty six minutes. The third is *Den Suidt River*, or south River, which patteth *New England* from *Virginia* and *Mary Land*, being Navigable five and thirty leagues at least. Many are of oppinion upon good probabilities, that this and *Patowmack* a River, which runneth thorough part of *Virginia* and *Maryland* into the Sea at *Chesapeake Bay* descend both out of the Lake St. Lewis. The fourth is *St. Croix River*, which distinguisheth *New England* from *Nova Scotia*. There bee many other Navigable Rivers, as *Merimack*, *Sagadahock*, *Connecticut*, *Champoignes River*, and others which would be too tedious to discovrse of particularly: For Brooks and springs of sweet water, there be so many, that Planters wheresoever they seat themselves, need not feare scarcity of water in the greatest drought for any use. Sea-men that frequent that Country commend it for diversity of good Harbours so that whencesoever the wind bloweth, they have one or other to put into for safe-guard: For the Coast being full of Ilands and broken land, have many openings, which make the Channells deepe and narrow, between which Ilands

and the maine land, lie the most and best Harbours which are sheltred on the shore side with high Cliffs, Woods, or both; and towards the Sea with Ilands or Head-lands, which break the waves of that swelling Sea, so that the tides come in where the Shippes ride so calme, that they are hardly sensible of any storm. Another great commodity of these Harbours is, that Ships may ride there without danger of Worm-eating, which they cannot do, unlesse they be sheathed, in *Virginia, Florida*, & further to the Southward. The raggednes of the Coast, and straight entrance into the Harbours are partly fortified by Nature, in that there be few of them so broad, but an ordinary cast peece will execute from one Bank to another, where with a little Art may bee raised (as they have done in severall places) such strong works as will bee able to repell the power of an invading Enemy.

7. All English and Spanish Cattle which were transported thither, grow larger, and yeeld more profit than those of the same kind whence they came; and which is more, Dutch beasts which were carried out of a fatter Soile then ours, do with breeding there, become larger in size then otherwise, and none of them have bin hitherto subject to those diseases incident to Cattle in this Land: But for their Pou'try, comparing the number of those Planters in Families and Estates with the Inhabitants of this Country, they will be found better provided. The benefit that is made by the Planters of their Cattle, Corne and other commodities which the Land affords them is great, considering what good estates divers industrious men have attained unto in a short time, out of small beginnings.

8. There are of the Native Beasts both ravenous and commodious; The Ravenous are Beares, Wolves, Lufersans or Ownces, Foxes, Squunks, Ferrets, and wild Dogs, very like the ordinary Curs of *England*, which the *Salgnages* doe take and tame when they are young to follow them, who never bark; but against rain or foule weather, will then set themselves to howle, making a most hideous yelling noise: The beasts that are commodious be profitable two wayes, either for food or furs. For Furs, such are Beavers, Otters, Minks, Rackoons, Musquash, Sables, and others. There have bin Bears, black Wolves and Foxes taken, whose cases are of great esteem here in *England*: the beasts for food are Elks, Deer of two kinds, Hares and Rabbits: the beare and Squunk also are esteemed by the Planters little inferiour to Veale

Veale and Lambe: For those Deere, the lesser of them are a kinde of Red Deere, but not altogether so bigg and large as ours, who never beat themselves so low at rut, but that they will be fat all the winter, and are as good Venison as any in Christendom: these have their brow and beam antlers, broaches, torches, and as many starts upon their heads, as our English Deer, but grow more compact and forward: the other is as large as an Oxe, called a Moose, headed somewhat like a Buck with broad palms, but much wider then our Red or fallow Deer; these Mooies are heavy slow beasts, which frequent the low rank grounds to feed upon long grasse, by reason their fore-feet are longer then their hinder feet, whose flesh is of a course big grain, & eats like unto Beefe. Both these kind of Deer bring ordinarily 3. Calves at a fall and timelier then our english Deer by 2. months: there be many kinds of sea and land Fowle, whereof some may be made fit for recreation, others for sustenance, with a third kind good for neither; as Eagles, Gripes, Ravens, Cormorants, and Crows: For sports you have Faulcons, Lanners, Goshawks, and others for food, Turkies, Grouces, Patridges, Cranes, wild Swans, wild Geese of 3. kinds, Ducks, Widgins, Teales, Herons, sea and Land Larks, with many others in greater plenty by far then in these Countries, with severall singing Birds strang to us, that are very glorious to the eye for diversity of colours. But there is a Fowle, which some that write of them call Pidgeons, whose colour is like to the Turtle, and tayed like to a Magpy, otherwise for their shape and flying, I should rather thinke them to bee a kind of Stock-Doves, which Fowle in *October*, fly in such flocks, that I have seene the sky darkned with them; as if it had bin over-cast with a cloud, all flying from the North South-ward to some hotter Region, where they continue untill the spring, and then do return to build and breed towards *Nova Scotia*, in a more temperate clymate for the summer.

9. As that Sea which flanketh the Coast of *New England*, is the most spacious in the world, so it affordeth the greatest store and most variety of fish, for neere to *De-la-ware Bay* there are more Whales and Grampasses then in *Groinland*; and all the Coast along there are great abundance of *Salmon*, Sturgion, Turbut, Mullet, Basse, Mackerill, Thornbacke, Hake, Herrings, Shads, Scules, Eales, Lampries, Smelts, and all other kinds taken in our English seas, with many others, not knowne by any names to our Nation:

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As for *Codd*, the fishing voyages made yearly out of *England* for that purpose, will sufficiently prove their plenty, and withall there is neither Bay nor Creek, but is as full of Lobsters, Oysters, Scallops, Crabs, Cockles, Praunes, Clammes, Mussels, Petewinkles, &c. So that a Boy may go into divers places on the water side, and take more in one houre than will dine eight or ten Men.

10. Touching the Climate; That Country is placed in the principall part of the temperate Zone, where being ten Degrees neerer the *Equinoctiall* than this Land; the *Ayre* is better digested, which maketh a very serene and fresh Skie: So that *New England* is generally preferred before this land for healthfulness, sympathizing better then our English Nation; more particularly, such as are troubled with any Cold, Rhumaticke or Melancholcke distemperatures; for the temper of that Climate is somewhat hotter then is ordinary here in Summer, and somewhat colder in the Winter, yet the Summer is not so hot, but men indure the heat to labour in; nor the Winter so cold, but with moderate stirring they may brook the sharpest ayre a whole day; but for the spring and Autumne, they are very temperate and pleasant. I need not writ much concerning the length of dayes and nights, for there is no Intelligent Traveller but knoweth the nearer a Country is to the *Equinoctiall*, there the more equall both nights and dayes are in Winter and summer; so that in the south part of *New England*, the dayes are two houres and a halfe shorter in Summer than in this Kingdome, and as much longer in the Winter.

11. There be three Nations besides the Indians who inhabit that Country, namely, French, English, and Dutch: the French are the most Northerly Plantation, being in number about two hundred, and the last of the three that possessed any part of the Land, they are set downe in a place called *Penobscot*, where they have erected a Fort and necessary buildings, but apply themselves hitherto, more to the trade of *Beaver*, than to Fishing or preparing of Land to establish a Plantation.

12. The next are the English who are thought to be no lesse than 30000. persons, whose plantations are all (excepting one) to the Northward of *Cape Codd*; but because there be of them two distinct Collonies, the one at *New Plymouth*, the other at the *Masachusetts Bay*, who went not over together, nor hold their estates

estates by the same grant; I thought good [for the Readers better information] to speak somewhat of them severally. The first that came into the Land, are those of *New Plymouth*, who went over from *Amsterdam* and *Leiden* in *Holland*, and were set out at the charge of divers Marchants for the south part of *Virginia*: but being cross'd in their voyage by contrary winds and stormes were forced to land in *New England*, much weather beaten and prejudiced in their Provision; where, through want of means to follow their purpose, did continue untill they sent their Masters word of this crosse fortune, which was soone dispatched, desiring a second supply of Necessaries, and a Direction what they should further doe. In the meane time, they sought out the best helps that that Country could afford for lively hood, having no Provision but what they got with labour and danger, nor then sufficient to content Nature; yet all of them with much hardnesse and patience, sustained the want of this rude Desert, expecting some reliefe to come to them, but this bad and unexpected newes rooke off the edge of the Adventurers hopes, so that they concluded, rather then to hazard any more money for their second transportation, to lose what was already expended. Nevertheless, they imployed their wits and hands some to build houses, others to go abroad into the Country to seek what they could finde for profit; and after much search, happily hapned upon some trade for *Beaver* and other Furres, which they did so diligently follow, that within a short time they had not only quitted themselves from the miserable condition they were lately in, but began to raise some benefit, and to conceive a good hope of a growing and continuing gaine, which in a short time suited their expectation. For, whereas they were at that time but covenant Servants to the Marchants, did within the round of eighteen months or two yeares; buy out their Freedome (as I take it, for eighteen hundred pounds) paying them by two hundred pounds a yeare; but within a yeare or two after they came to another composition, which was, That if the Marchants would abate part of the summe agreed upon, they would discharge all in one payment, which was effected to the contentment of both parties. This prosperous successe of theirs being knowne here in *England*, perswaded in many such a good opinion of that Country that they resolved to adventure themselves and estates into those parts, in hopes of the like fortune,

for not long after, there went over many who joyned with them and more do still so that they are now growne to a great number of Planters, and of good estates. But they follow the Trade of *Beaver*, with that greedinesse by reason of present profit] that they do not apply themselves so much to cleare and fence grounds for tillage as other Planters, whereby the Inhabitants might be maintained with the fruit of Husbandry, and the brood of Cattell increased, which indeed is the best and surest foundation of a settled Colonie.

13. The other Plantation is that of the *Masachusetts Bay*, who went over well provided with all necessaries, intending to raise themselves new estates in that Country. The better sort of them being Gentlemen of good estates and reputation here in *England*: the rest were very industrious and painfull, who brought over either competent meanes to put themselves into a thriving course, or had good Occupations and Trades, whereby they might live upon the accommodations of the Country: And withall, are now very desirous to have such a Government settled by the Kings Authority, that will subject all of them to the Laws of this Land, whereby the abuses of such as are refractory may be convicted and corrected, and the obedience of the rest cherished and defended. This Plantation hath bin very successfull and are already growne so numerous, that they are dispersed throughout the Sea-coast of this Bay, above fifty miles in compasse: In severall places whereof, they have built Forts of good strength, with diverse Townes and villages which are able to entertain such as come over, with house-room and other refreshings, while they build and make Provision upon their owne lots; and whereas some Scituations would not afford them arable grounds enough neere the towns, they have found out convenient places further in the Country for tillage and Meadowing, where they have good Farms. Their chiefe employments hitherto have bin Husbandry, trading for *Beaver*, and fishing: For their husbandry, they brought that to so good a perfection, that all of them who have lived there any reasonable time, have sufficient to maintaine their Families out of their Stocks in Corn and Cattell: For their *Beaver* trade, it hath continued very beneficiall unto them a good while after their first coming over, but it soon decayed since there went so many Planters with trucking commodities, that all of them traded promiscuously, respectlesse of the manner and rates the ancient

cient Planters used, which was not to exceed a certain proportion; and this corruption still gaining upon their covetousnesse, have brought it now to this passe, that so soon as they can discerie any *Salvages* comming towards their Plantations with Fur, they will a'l flock about them, one out-bidding another while there is any materiall gaine, so that they can hardly get two *Beavers* for that commodity they exchanged for ten or twelve.

14. And for their fishing, they made *Weres* in many places where the tides leave so much fish, that they doe not only serve all the Plantations therewith throughout the Yeare, but are forced (and that for a good purpose) to carty the overplus to fatten their Land with, lest those great Shoales should break, or choake up the *VVeres*. But the wealth that the Planters might get by setting up the trade of fishing (did they effectually go in hand therewith) may bee conceived, by comparing that Coast with other fishing places; for it is well knowne that it equalizeth *Grain-land* for *VVhales* and *Grampassies*. The *Irish* and *North Sea* for *Herring* and salt fish. The *Baltick sea* for *Sturcion* and *Mullet*. And with all doth exceed *New-found-land*, fishing for *Poorc-John*, in that the fish is larger, and the season sooner by above two moneths, whereby they may bee at their Markets in their Ilands, *Italy*, *Spaine* or *France*, before he others have their Fish a shipboard in *New-found-land*, and will sell their fish at a greater price. Furthermore, they have in divers respects, the advantage of our *New-found-land* Fishermen (who are at a great charge in buying of salt spending of time and Victualls before they arrive at their fishing place) by reason they are at hand, and may in a short time fit themselves with all provision for that work. But those Planters (excepting some particular men who built a few shippes for that purpose) have bin hitherto hindred by their Land employments, neither will there bee much good done before they make a generall stocke, and incorporate themselves into one body; which being wisely managed may in a few years raise them to great estates, and make them masters of such a Navall power as will be able to doe the King service, and defend their own Country.

15. What I have hitherto written of *New-England*, is upon the matter generall; now I purpose to write somewhat in particular, concerning a part of the Country which lieth between *Dalmar Bay*, and *Cape Codd*, that is more than halfe the land in extent, though not in Degrees, by reason it beareth more Westerly then

the other and that hath not bin formerly mentioned by any mans Relatiⁿ, but from *Cape Codd* Northeastward, Captaine *Smith*, and Mr *Woods* have discourtesed copiously of the severall scituations and plantations as also of the manner, and profit of that Fishing, whose Bookes are now extant.

16. The only Planters who possessed that Western part of the Countrie excepting one small Plantation of English upon the River *Connecticut*] are the *Dutch*, who first came into the land about the yeare 1622. and putting into *Hudsons* river (which they call *Mauritius River*) spent some time with the Indians in trading for Beaver, and took possession of that place in their *West-India Companies* name, who then imployed them, and afterwards returned into *Holland*, moving their Masters with some experimentall reasons, to be at the charge of transporting a Colony thither, which the Company undertooke, For in the yeare following they set out a ship for the same River, with some 60 Planters furnished with trucking Commodities, and all necessaries for a twelve-moneth, who upon their first landing searched all the places neere the Sea side for a commodious Scituation, at last chose *Manahatas Island* for two reasons, one respecting a good Harbor, the other for conveniency of commerce with the Indians. This Island is ten leagues in compasse, and a league and a halfe broad or thereabouts, at the South part whereof they raised a strong Fort, with 4. compleat Bulwarks, upon which they have 20 cast Pieces mounted: neere about this Fort live all the Planters that are Artificers, but their *Boores* disperse themselves farther Northward into the Island where it is more fertile than about the Plantation, with in 4 or 5. miles Eastward of this place, is a large plaine of ten or twelve miles wide, which is very fit for Farmers to inhabit, but on the West side it is more ruste and hilly. There is another Island a league and a halfe from this Plantation that is more fertile than *Manahatas* (which they called *The States Island*) fronting Southward upon the Bay, at the East point thereof, we enter first into *Mauritius River*, being not above a Falcon shoot over where there might be a Fort made of such consequence, that would secure the whole Plantation from any danger of an invasion: This Island is some 9. leagues about, and the fittest place to be planted of any other neerer the Sea side, by reason of the great quantity of arable land there is in it; as also, of having Men at hand to resist the enterance of an Enemy into that River.

17. Not long after their first coming into the land, they sailed in a small Vessell 45 leagues up this River, and [finding there a far greater Trade than by the Sea coast] planted another Colonie, and erected a little work in forme of a Redoubt, which they call *Fort Aurania*; but for their better securing, they have cast up since a high Trench about it, where there is 7 or 8 pieces of Ordnance mounted. The Banks of this River for divers leagues together thereabouts, is an exceeding fat Soyle, surpassing all that on the Sea coast, insomuch that the Planters of *Manahatas*, when they have wrought their Cattle so weake that they are not able long to labour, do use to send them to *Fort Aurania*, wherewith that rich feeding they recover their flesh and strength in a short time, within a day and a halfe or two dayes journey at the furthest from this place, is the Lake *Hiroquoyis* so famous for *Beavers* and *Otters*, which maintaineth the greatest part of the *Beaver* trade in the *French* Plantation at *Quibec*, and also affordeth this Colonie more then they have in all their Factoris besides. The *Dutch mens* aime is, to get up and plant a Collony upon the Bank of this Lake, where they might with ease ingrosse to themselves most of that great and rich Trade, having a very advantageous helpe withall by their River to transport to, and from the Sea side a great way, though not up to it, all provisions necessary for their use and trade which if they could but compasse, would inable them in a short time, but that only gaine, to plant and fortifie that part of the Land which they now hold so strong, that they might make a powerfull resistance against any forraigne invasion. Part of the *Dutch* went from *Manahatas* foure yeares sithence, and settled another Plantation upon the River *Conestecute*, which is held to be one of the best situations for Tillage in all the Country; but some *English* who came from the *Masachusetts Bay* planted above them upon the same River, and do cut off their Trade for *Beaver*, so that they have little else to make profit of but their Husbandrie.

18. In the yeare 1630. they set up a Plantation on the South side of *De-la-ware Bay*, and finding that soile very fertile, intended to plant *Tobacco*, which if it had taken effect, would have much prejudiced the *Virginians* for the sale of that commodity in the *Netherlands* and many other places; but the indiscretion of that *Dutch* Governour gave a wefull period to the Collony, the manner I will relate to forewarne others from the like folly. The custome of the *Dutch*, when they take possession of any strange

Land, is to fasten upon a tree the Arms of their Country, as they did in this place ; but a simple *Indian* passing by espied it, and ignorant of what it meant took it off and caried it away : which, when the *Governour* understood, was much incensed therewith, holding it for a great affront, insomuch, that when the Princes and chiefe of them came first into the *Quarter* were laid hands on and examined upon his misdemeanour ; who pleaded, they knew not of it : nevertheles he threatned their lives, in case they would not bring in the Malefactor to answer it and in the mean time detained them for Prisoners: when the poor people saw themselves in that exigent got the Offender to come in, thinking the contempt not to deserve death ; but when the simple people understood his danger, they offered a great ransom for his life, but nothing would, nor did satisfie this austere *Judge*, but the poor *Indians* blood : when this was done, the *Salvages* were discharged, who masked their discontent under a faire shew of friendship, frequented the Plantation as they had done with some trade or other; but within a while after, there came so many of them together, that they cut all the Planters throats in an instant, demolished their Fort, and destroyed what else they had there, so this Plantation continued not much above a yeare.

19. This Nation have a trade in the South-River, and the *Narrogans Bay*, whence they get from the *English* in *New Engl.* and *Virginia*, 6000. *Beavers* in a yeare ; and withall, have lesser Boats that go into all the Creeks and Rivers between those two places, where they glean all the trade of the Country ; Insomuch, that I believe, these people who are not above 700. in their severall plantations, do make a greater benefit of the *Beaver* trade than all our *English* in *New-England* being 30000. They have made an experiment in *Delaware Bay*, of Whale fishing, but by reason of their slow preparation, came not so soon as the season required ; neverthelesse, they killed 2. or 3. and were confident of a great voyage had they come in time: for they report, that there is greater store of such fish than in *Greenland*. But upon that massacre the *Indians* spoiled all their fishing craft, that they never followed that employment afterwards. The Planters have built in *Manahatas Island* many little Boats and Shallops, with divers Ships from 70. to 200. Tuns and upwards, and one of 700. Tuns, which was fitted with as good Masts and Yards as any come from the East Country ; and they have Sailes, Cables, Cordage, and all other requisites

qualifies fit for their setting out, for all other provision that belongeth to a Colony; they are generally better stockt than any other Plantation in that Country, and have thriven beyond them there. with. I can say little of the *Indians*, but that they are very subtil and ingenious, seldome or never seen upon any occasion, to expresse much joy or sorrow; the more Eastward you go into *New Engl.* the fewer and more effeminate they are; as on the other side, the more Westward, the more populous, masculine and marshall: yet it was never known, that any of them assaulted a Planter upon equal terms, but wait for a treacherous opportunity, and then make use of their advantage.

20. I should advise those that would undertake to plant new Colonies remote from others, to build their houses so neere, that upon all occasions they may be able to second one another; and for their better securing, to keepe in each house a good Mastiffe Dog, which may give notice of an approaching danger, which otherwise would not be discovered, and with all are far more terrible to the *Indians* then either Gun or Sword; also I would wish all such Planters to entreat the *Salvages* fairly, and by no means to wrong them for if they be once justly exasperated, they will be found implacable, and will never leave trailing of a reveng until they bring it to execution. Therefore if any one be guilty in that kind, let all the Plantation stand upon their guard, and expect no better favour then the *Dutch* received upon *De-la-war Bay*. For the use of Fowling pieces, I hold them very necessary to shoot at Deere and Land-fowle, for the Deere will be lesse affrighted with the fall of one that way, then with hunting or coursing at the Herd, and for Land-fowle, the ground is so rough, that there is no other means to come by them. But for Sea fowle, though much shooting cannot be done off the Coast, yet they will grow so cunning and fearefull, that a man may walk two or 3. houres before he can come to a shoot, so the best course is to get into each Plantation a good Fowler that knowes how to lay Nets, and other devices to catch them, who by that means will be better able to furnish the Planters by his owne labour, then they will with forty Gunnes. There must be a good circumspection used in civilizing of the *Salvages*, otherwise what will prove their best good, may happen the Planters greatest prejudice; for the meaner sort of them, they may be trained up anywhere without any danger, and there bringing up to arts and labour, will prove an assisting help to the Planters. But for the Princes and chiefe of the Country, the surest course to prevent trouble and danger, is to send them so far from the places where they were

were borne, that they may not know what they were, or whence they came, otherwise by better understanding what right Princes have above private men to a Country; and having some of the Natives skilled in the Arts and Occupations of the Planters, will peradventure thinke themselves fit and able to reduce the Land people to what wee intended, and seeke either by their treacheries, strength, or the ayd of other neighbouring Princes, to extirpate the Plantations, and reinvest themselves in the possession of their ancient Inheritance, which though happily they cannot effect, would distract and disturbe the Peace of that

C O U N T R I E.

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FINIS.



